First Congregational
United Church of Christ

111 S. Wallace Blvd. Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(Mailing Address: P.O. Box 980413 Ypsilanti, MI 48198)
www.ypsiucc.org

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

June 26, 2022
10:00 am

"Pick Up the Mantle! Caution Ahead!"
Open and Affirming Sunday

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, You are welcome here!

WORSHIP ON ZOOM -- Zoom opens at 9:30 am Sunday morning.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7643282234

Meeting ID: 764 328 2234
Passcode: Ypsi1882
To join by phone, dial the number, 1-312-626-6799

- Welcome to Ypsilanti First Congregational UCC's Zoom Worship Service
- Hymns are included in the worship bulletin. A separate hymnal is not needed.
- If you are joining worship for the first-time on Zoom, please add your name and email to the chat so the Greeter can introduce you.
- Thank you for choosing to worship with us today!

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT OF
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identifies and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions. All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe, nurturing community of faith. We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

a just world for all
ucc.org

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Start Zoom Recoding to Cloud **JOSHUA CATANIA**

"This Little Light of Mine", Traditional

RINGING THE BELL **MARTY KLEINO**

WELCOME **PASTOR LIZ**

- A warm welcome to all, including first-time visitors.
- As stated in our Open and Affirming Covenant (previous page), all persons are welcome in this community of faith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS **BARBARA GARLAND**

- **COMMUNITY SHARING OF OTHER ANNOUNCMENTS:**
  - The Worship Leader and Greeter is Barbara Garland.
  - The Greeter will welcome visitors.
  - Please share your announcements so everyone can learn what is happening in our beloved ministry community.
  - Please submit written announcements to Margaret Harner, Worship Coordinator, margaretsharner@gmail.com, by midnight on Tuesday.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Every Step of the Way"
66 SING

CALL TO WORSHIP (Unison) **BARBARA GARLAND**

Come! Come into the place where God listens!
Where you need no money, no status, no fine clothes!
Come as you are – broken, whole, sick, well.
Satisfied or with deep needs.
Come to sing! Come to cry! Come to hear! Come to see!
Come and be ready or come to be made ready!
We are here! God is here too.
Amen

HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Ablaze, Amazed, At Peace Alive"
Cagle/Lyons
Hymn written for this church

LISTENING FOR GOD

FIRST READING **Psalms 16** **BARBARA GARLAND**

SECOND READING **1 John 3:13-14, 16-24** **MARGARET HARNER**

HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"A Heart with Wings"

Cagle/Lyons

A hymn to celebrate the open and affirming people of faith
at First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti, Michigan

MORNING MESSAGE **"Pick Up the Mantle"** **MARGARET HARNER**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Pause Zoom recording

*Zoomies: Please turn on your microphone
You are invited to share your joys and petitions for prayer.
Please unmute your microphone to share a joy or make a prayer of petition.
At the end of each joy or petition, please say **"God in your mercy"**
We will respond (with microphones muted) **"Hear our prayers"**

PASTORAL PRAYER *Restart Zoom recording **MARGARET HARNER**

LITANY OF HOPE AND STRUGGLE (Responsively) **MARGARET HARNER**

*Microphone muted

Leader**:** Because injustice can break the most eager spirit and force the abandonment of of dreams,

People: We hold tenderly our siblings and grieve the loss of vibrancy and faith.

Leader: Because fear overwhelms goodness and silences those whom God has called,

People: We decry the betrayal of God's own and announce our resolve to speak the truth of our lives.

Leader: Because hate destroys the human heart and limits the wonders of love,

People: We open ourselves to compassion and offer our lives as witnesses to the healing presence of God.

Leader: Because complacency gives consent to systems that oppress and harm,

People: We refuse to cede our world to hurtful powers and principalities; we dare to dream new creations into being.

Leader: Because hope in a world of cynicism and doubt is a sacred resistance,

People: Where hatred roars, we will sing love.
Where fear stalks, we will stand with courage.
Where bigotry rages, we will call for justice.
Where pain overwhelms, we will extend kind comfort.
Where systems oppress, we will work for change.

Leader: Now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore!
Amen.

Leader: Amen

OFFERING

OFFERTORY INVITATION **MARGARET HARNER**

Our electronic giving platform is Tithe.ly: Link to Tithe.ly

Please place in-person offerings in the gold offertory plate on the table by the door.

Checks can be mailed to:
First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERTORY **"Strengthen All the Weary Hands"** **JOSHUA CATANIA**
By Marty McMane

DOXOLOGY *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Take My Gifts" v.2 562 NCH

Take the fruits that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
Harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,
Spiced with humor, laced with laughter, flavor of the Jesus life,
Tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison) *Microphone muted **BARBARA GARLAND**

Benevolent God, you see those who are hungry, poor and marginalized.
You recognize their humanity and their suffering.
You promise to overthrow the rejection encountered in our world.
Help us be part of that transformation.
Take our gifts to feed the hungry and sustain the poor.
Multiply our gifts to erase the margins of our society,
embracing us all in your inclusive love.
Amen.

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

CLOSING HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Exultation Hymn"

Cagle/Lyons

For the ONA Exulation, "Gathered in Spirit, Gaining in Strength"
Oct. 13-15, 1993, Cleveland, Ohio

BENEDICTION (Responsively) **MARGARET HARNER**

Leader: We're growing in spirit. Our faith has made mountains move.
We're gaining in strength, no matter the length of the journey.
We're home in God's love. Go out with love and make good trouble.
Amen.

People: Amen.

POSTLUDE **"Thank You God"** **JOSHUA CATANIA**

By Brian Wren

PASSING THE PEACE **FRIENDS GATHERED**

- Share a greeting with others as we transition to our casual **Friendship Time.**

Zoom Only Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Rev. Liz Larrivee, Pastor & Spiritual Director
Tiffanie Waldron, Music Director
Joshua Catania, Guest Accompanist

Margaret Harner, Guest Preacher
Jenn Zibbell, Ministry Intern, MID
Barbara Garland, Worship Leader/Greeter
Marty Kleino, Usher & Bell Ringer

YPSILANTI FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Worship Address:
111 S. Wallace Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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ATTRIBUTIONS FOR TODAY'S BULLETIN

- **Cover Art:** Photo Mehdi Sepehri on Unsplash
- **Call to Worship:** (adapted) *Liturgies from Below,* Claudio Carvalhaes, Abingdon Press (2020)
- **Litany of Hope & Struggle:** (adapted)*Along the Arc,* Carol Wise, Brethren Mennonite Council
- **Prayer of Dedication:** (adapted) Gill LeFevre

COVENANT OF OPENNESS, AFFIRMATION AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

WHEREAS our biblical and theological studies have led us to understand that we are made in God's image, as persons loved by God, we are called to fully accept ourselves and our sexuality. We also understand that the Bible condemns sexual abuse and exploitation, and that it is in Christian community that we seek to learn respect for persons and values that are life-giving. Recognizing that our Christian faith is the foundation of our values in human relationships, we envision a community in which all persons will come to know, celebrate and have confidence in themselves as sexual beings. Our sexuality is a gift from God which enriches our lives and deeply touches the reality of our own and others' humanity.

We recognize that human beings form family relationships that reflect diversity: traditional families, single-parent families, extended families, couples. We support the relationships that single persons, lesbians, gay men, bisexual and heterosexual persons form with one another.

We affirm that all are welcome within our community and are expected and encouraged to share their talents and gifts in the life, worship, and leadership of our congregation.

Christian faith requires that we endeavor to act so that no one should suffer from any discrimination that threatens basic human rights. We advocate justice for lesbians, gay men, and bisexual persons in our community and society.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

that, responding to the resolution of the 15th General Synod of the United Church of Christ,

First Congregational United Church of Christ of Ypsilanti, Michigan declares itself to be an "Open and Affirming Congregation." We welcome persons with lesbian, gay, and bisexual orientation into the full life, ministry, and membership of this congregation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

that we do not discriminate against any person, group or organization in hiring, promotion, membership, appointment, use of facilities, provision of services or funding on the basis of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnicity, or physical ability.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

that we encourage and support other congregations in the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ to become Open and Affirming Congregations; that we encourage and support the Covenant Association and the Michigan Conference to declare themselves open and affirming to gay men, lesbians, and bisexual persons; and that we expect the Michigan Conference staff and the Church and Ministry Committee to actively seek placement of clergy who are lesbians, gay men, and bisexual persons.

Adopted 11/13/88

First Congregational United Church of Christ

Co-Pastors:
Nancy B. Rohde
John K. Rohde

218 N. ADAMS, P.O. BOX 413
YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN 48197
PHONE (313) 482-6980

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Next Week: **Jeanette Sherrill, Worship Leader.**

May 29 – September 11: Sunday worship will be on Zoom-only.

Coming Soon: Weekly Zoom sessions for our community of faith to complete the work of "Purpose = Identity + Context + Values" from Susan Beaumont's *How to Lead When You Don't Know WhereYou're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season*. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in the Lenten/Easter Community Discernment book study. The conversation was robust and timely. And…it was fun to be together outside of worship! God is still speaking...and we are listening and discerning. Look for a Google Survey asking for day and time preferences to determine the weekly time slot that works best for most folks.

Summertime Friendship Time!!!! We are trying a new thing..... we want to gather for friendship time with those of us local enough to join for lunch and conversation. Our first gathering will be **THIS SUNDAY, June 26, noon at:**

Harvest Moon Cafe,
5484 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti 48197
(corner of West Michigan Ave/ Carpenter Rd.

Before COVID, there was Friendship Time following worship with food at the church. As we move forward it is so important that we have time just to be together. Let's celebrate the new things happening in our beloved community. Proposed dates going forward are-

Sunday, June 26
Sunday, July 10
Sunday, July 24
Sunday, August 7
Sunday, August 21

Watch for announcements regarding details for each event. It would be **lovely if you would like to host** one of these lunches, or if you would like to suggest an alternate date. **Jenn Zibbell** organizing these gatherings. Jenn's contact is jezibbell@live.com or 806-368-1450

Sunday, September 18 is our Fall Kick-Off Sunday. Hybrid worship (both in-person and on Zoom) resumes.

Sunday, September 25 is our Neighborhood and Community Pet Blessing Ceremony. Jenn Zibbell, MID, is Team Lead for this special event. Look for more from Jenn as to how you can participate in preparations.

Progress Pride Flag, designed by Daniel Quasar, 2018, and he writes *the flag below explicitly includes Black, Brown and Trans colors. Without those groups we would not have Pride today.* The inclusive flag, which includes black and brown stripes representing people of color, as well as pink, white, and blue stripes in a nod to the Trans Pride banner. The flag was designed by Daniel Quaser from Portland, Oregon.

The national officers of the United Church of Christ are speaking out against the U.S. Supreme Court decision eliminating, after almost 50 years, the constitutional right to an abortion **'We will stand with you in protest': National officers speak out after SC overturns Roe v. Wade**

by **UCC Leadership** | published on Jun 24, 2022

Long before the Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade, the United Church of Christ, by action of the General Synod, affirmed the right of every individual to follow their personal religious and moral convictions regarding their reproductive healthcare. We continue to stand by this conviction today. This religious and moral agency includes the autonomy of birthing people to decide whether to complete or terminate a pregnancy.

Our Synod resolutions, which represent the will of the church in light of scripture, highlight the importance of ensuring access to the full range of reproductive health care regardless of race, religion, or economic status. We do not take this stand in spite of faith, but rather because of it. Throughout sacred text humankind is tasked with care of self and others. Bodily autonomy is a human right given by God.

Today's Supreme Court decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, discarding nearly 50 years of precedent, will endanger the lives and well-being of birthing people who do not choose to continue pregnancy. God loves and cares for people who have abortions, and so does the United Church of Christ. We believe all people have the right to make their own decisions about their bodies and medical treatment. We believe women have an inalienable right to shape the direction of their lives as they see fit, and no institution established by humankind should supersede such freedom.

The Supreme Court's decision to vacate Roe v. Wade and return the protection of a woman's human right to states represents a continual effort to oppress women and people who can give birth. Such uniform repression targeted at one specific class of people, namely those who have a uterus, creates yet another stark division in a country that so desperately needs unity. In addition to gender bias, such a rendering also disproportionately effects birthing people of color and women in rural or low-income areas who face challenges in access to safe and medically supervised reproductive health care, including abortions. The gravity of this decision and the devastation of its impact cannot be overstated.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God offers these words of comfort to the Israelites during a challenging time: “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10) These are not words that assuage us with easy answers and shallow promises. There is no declaration that things will be better tomorrow. They will not be. But they do promise that we are not alone in our struggles.

We, the officers of the United Church of Christ, want those feeling the pain of today’s decision to know that you are not alone. God has not abandoned you and neither will we. We will do what we always do when the law loses its love. We will grieve with you and offer space for lament and mourning. We will work with you until the rights of every person are honored in this land. We will stand with you in protest. We will kneel with you in prayer. And we will maintain our commitment to educate people about abortion access and safe medically supported reproductive healthcare. Now and always, we remain firm in the knowledge that all are beloved of God, and this cause is right and holy.

The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President

The Rev. Traci Blackmon
The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson
Associate General Ministers

OUR CHURCH’S MISSIONS

THE BEACON CENTER

The **Beacon Center** is the newest community social justice of the Ypsilanti First Congregational UCC. As a light to all persons, the Beacon Center’s ministry will support the spiritual formation, creative expression, overall thriving and advocacy of at-risk students of all ages, including those affiliated with three primary local institutions of higher learning: Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw Community College and University of Michigan. In the Spirit of the UCC moto, “That They All Shall Be One”, Beacon Center serves as a uniting and unifying umbrella across our congregation serving persons sources through our three other community social justice ministry networks. Those ministries (each detailed below) include WICIR (Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights) serving the immigrant communities, MI-ONA (Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition) serving LGTBQ+ persons, and WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition) which brings together faith, labor and community organizations to address local issues.

The Beacon Center is committed to advocate for self-determination and education for all people, especially students living in poverty, persons of color experiencing racism, and other de-humanizing circumstances and conditions. Beacon Center’s student demographics include persons of color, immigrants, minorities, LGTBQ+ folk, women, those with special needs, the economically disadvantaged, those facing housing insecurity, the financially challenged, and the working poor. For additional information on the Beacon Center, please contact Rev. Liz Larrivee at lizlarrivee@gmail.com

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY – WASHTENAW INTERFAITH COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS (WICIR)

Since 2008, **WICIR** has been working with, and in support of, immigrants in Washtenaw County facing challenges of many kinds. At our inception the primary need that brought us together was to support people facing enforcement action by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement); most often detention, deportation, and removal. To date, WICIR has responded to 650 calls. Always in partnership with folks most affected, many actions and services have evolved as identified by our immigrant siblings, while always keeping focused on our original mission:

To provide culturally sensitive and supportive urgent response to those in Washtenaw County in immigration-related crises; impact local governmental policies to empower and protect immigrant community members; and work toward humane national immigration reform.

Our outreach has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many in immigrant communities have experienced significant challenges as they struggle to pay rent, provide food for their families and other basic survival needs. To respond, WICIR, in partnership with Mexiquenses in Michigan (from St. Francis of Assisi Parish), has raised and distributed $200,000 relief funds to immigrants and their families. We have a waiting list of those still in need and will continue this effort as funds are available.

For information about what's happening with immigrant rights and **Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights**, or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Melanie Harner at melharner@gmail.com or through the WICIR website: https://wicir.org/. You can also find a link on the church website.

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION

First Congregational is a founding institution of the local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition)**. In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. WeROC members are, at our core, focused on intentionally re-weaving the frayed fabric of community at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated. Especially in this time when so many are being hit by the health and economic crises, WeROC's focus on raising voices of those most affected is more important than ever (See COVID-19 Resources at www.werocmi.org) WeROC's Mission Statement is:

WeROC brings together faith, labor, community organizations, and individuals to build the healthy collective power needed to break down the systems that sustain injustice, racism, and economic inequality.

WeROC is affiliated with the Detroit Metro organization MOSES and the Gamliel National Network. Contact Tad Wysor at tadwysor@gmail.com or 734-883-3225.

This past election year showed us good things can happen when we're working together in the same direction. WeROC is moving rapidly **forward** to keep momentum going and find ways to continue to be more effective together in making our communities healthier and more vibrant places; improving the lives of *everyone* in big ways-- especially those who are most vulnerable and whose voice have seldom been heard.

1/2

Every Step of the Way

♩=128 F C/E Dm C B♭ Dm/A C/G Gsus G
♩=128
7 Cmaj9 G/B Am Am/G Dm7 Gsus G
Help me do the jus - tice to be done to - day.
11 C G/B Am Am/G Dm7
Help me love kind - ness in all I do and say.

Words and Music: Christopher Grundy
Music arrangement: Christopher Grundy and Gregory Milton
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2

14
Gsus G Em7 F C♯dim
— Help me walk hum - bly with you, — O
17
Dm7 Gsus G F
God I pray — ev - 'ry step of the way, —
20
Dm7 C/E F/G C
— ev - 'ry step of the way. —

Dedicated to Sandy Pollock

Ablaze, Amazed, At Peace, Alive

POLLOCK

The Rev. Susan Lyon — Steven Cagle

1. If love can soft - en deep - cut scars in hearts of young and old;
2. With faith as of a child I see a - fresh what God has done:
3. Let peace be like a deep, still well that from with - in me springs
4. Let hope surge like a sea through me, for God guides all my liv - ing.
Crush walls of hate and soothe the ache of dreams too cheap - ly sold;
Fierce crag - gy peaks and glis - tening waves and glow of moon and sun.
To quench the thirst - y cry of war which in this earth still rings.
My heart will brim with pain or joy, my eyes with tears of lov - ing.
The day we cease to burn with love, our world will die of cold.
Let me drink in your won - ders till by heart I know each one.
No long - er bound by chains of fear, we'll trade our chains for wings.
I live each mo - ment, harsh or kind, in bles - sing and thanks - giv - ing.
A - blaze with com - pas - sion let me ev - er be.
A - mazed at cre - a - tion with joy in all I see;
At peace with your chil - dren from hate and hurt set free;
A - live with your spir - it may I al - ways be.
God, like a fire, burn with - in me.
God, like a child, laugh with - in me.
God, like a bird, rest with - in me.
God, like a song, burst from in me.

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A Heart with Wings

A hymn to celebrate the open and affirming people of faith
at First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti, Michigan

The Rev. Susan Lyon

Steven Cagle

Set free, just to be hu - man, God bids us love all liv - ing things.
Set free, we'll soar like ea - gles, No cage can hold a heart with wings.
1. God is with us in our dream - ing of a day we pray is near; When we
2. God is with us in our griev - ing for our broth - ers, sis - ters, all who are
3. God is with us in our be - ing, born of spir - it, formed from clay, and cre -
4. God is with us in our liv - ing, proud to love, let us em - brace this our
all reach past the la - bels, break from pris - ons built of fear; When our care for one an - oth - er sows re-
ach - ing with re - jec - tion, scared by ha - tred's spik - y wall. For our friends whose on - ly choice was to be
at - ed in God's like-ness, we each choose our sa - cred way. Yes, the spir - it is the fire in each
jour - ney to sow jus - tice, to plant kind - ness, to reap grace. Arm in arm, we're pil - grims shar - ing joys and
3
To refrain
spect and self es - teem; Sure - ly our God has set us free to dream.
shunned or to de - ceive; Sure - ly our God has set us free to grieve.
hu - man face we see; Sure - ly our God has set us free to be.
tears our road will give; Sure - ly our God has set us free to live.
3

1989

Exultation Hymn

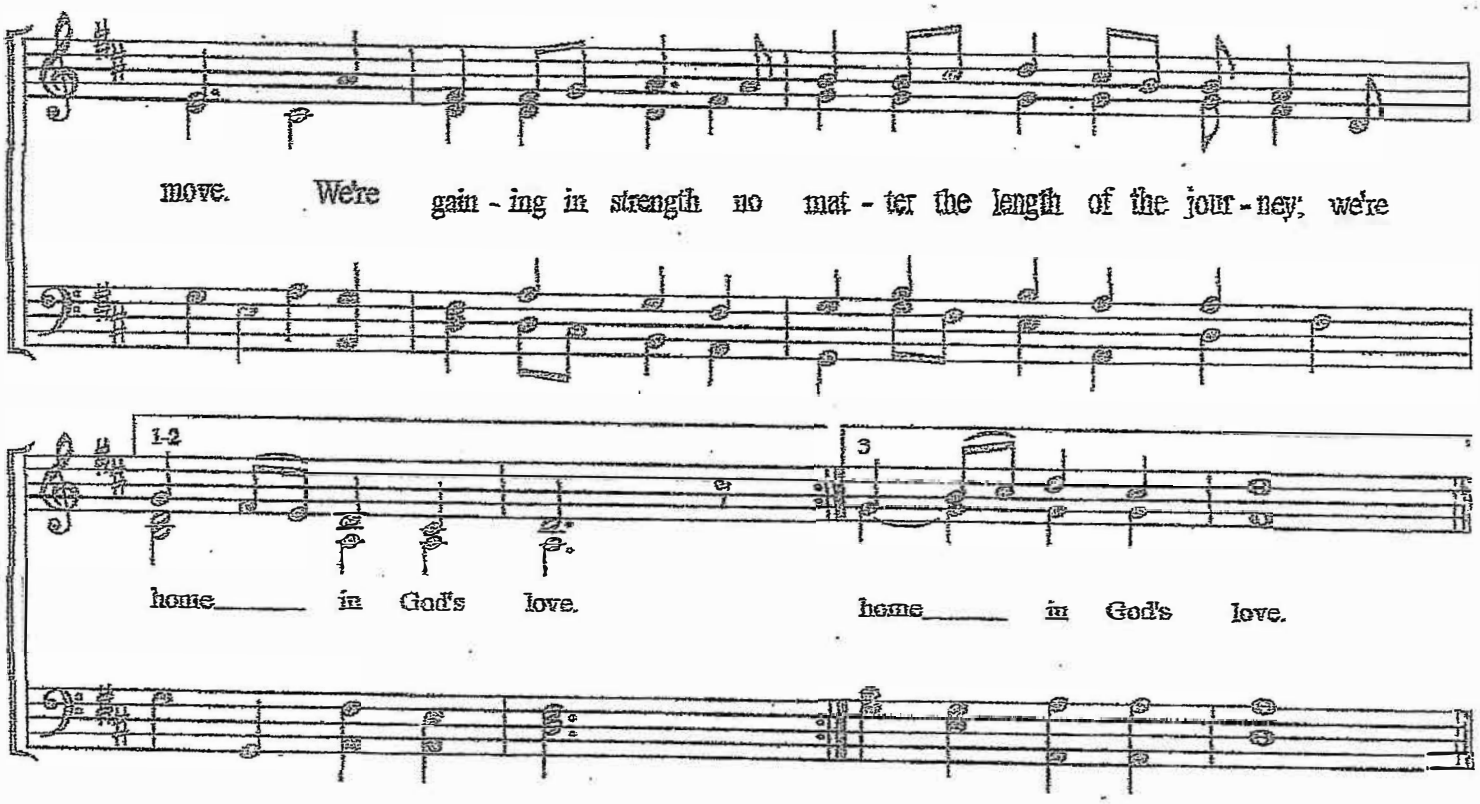
For the ONA Exultation, "Gathered in Spirit, Gaining in Strength," Oct. 13-15, 1995, Cleveland, Ohio

The Rev. Susan Lyon

Steven Cagle

1. God's truth is like a fire, a bea - con burn - ing bright, re -
2. God's prom - ise is a rain - bow, which beck - ons through the rain, as -
3. God's jus - tice is a riv - er surg - ing to the sea. It
fin - ing all it touch - es, fe - ro - cious ho - ly light. The kiln of the cre - a - tor trans-
sur - ing us of bles - sing, which lies be - yond the pain. With hearts that brim with hop-ing, we
crash-es through the na - tions, de - mand - ing lib - er - ty. No pre - ju - dice or ha - tred may
form - ing hu - man clay, God's truth will call us for - ward, the fire lights the way.
see our fu - ture shine. God's prom - ise calls us for - ward, the rain - bow is our sign.
stand a - gainst that tide. God's prom - ise calls us for - ward, the riv - er serves as guide.
We're grow - ing in spi - rit. Let all the peo - ple hear it: Our faith has made moun - tains

Exultation Hymn



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Steven Cagle born in Atlanta, GA, began his musical career with piano lessons at age 6 and organ lessons at 12. He received his Bachelor of Music degree in organ and harpsicord performance from Stetson University and Master degree in organ performance from the University of Michigan. Steve was Minister of Music and the Ypsilanti 1st Congregational UCC from 1981-2001 and is organist at Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church since 2003. *Ablaze, Amazed, At Peace, Alive* and several other hymns were written with Rev Susan Lyon while they were both at the Ypsilanti Church.

The Rev. Susan Lyon (1958-1996) was born in Newport, RI. After seminary at the Pacific School of Religion, Sue was ordained at the Ypsilanti 1st Congregational UCC in 1984. She served in chaplaincy programs in Michigan, California and finally in Connecticut where she was co-director of the Hartford Hospital pastoral services department, as well as director of the hospital's chaplaincy training program.

Rev Lyon had significant mobility challenges from rheumatoid arthritis and was blind as the result of being administered the wrong medication when she was very young. She was a remarkable person, gifted writer and preacher, never letting her disabilities constrain her from